

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097886

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, US

SUBJECT:DINITZ VIEWS ON CLIMATE OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

1. IN COURSE OF APRIL 14 MEETING WITH SAUNDERS, MAYNES
AND ATHERTON, DINITZ CITED AT LENGTH RECENT U.S. ACTIONS
WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL WHICH ARE LEAVING "NEGATIVE RESIDUE"
IN MINDS OF PUBLIC. RESULT, DINITZ SAID, IS CREATING
"ATMOSPHERE OF RECRIMINATION AND TENSION" WHICH CANNOT BE
HELPFUL TO PEACE PROCESS.

2. DINITZ LED OFF WITH CLUSTER BOMB ISSUE, SAYING THAT
WHILE HE COULD NOT EXCUSE ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO ABIDE BY
1976 ASSURANCES, U.S. HECTORING OF ISRAEL ON CBU'S HAS
GONE BEYOND NORMAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO FRIENDLY GOVERN-
MENTS. DINITZ SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS SADDENED AND HURT
BY APPROACH TAKEN WHEN HE CALLED IN BY DOD/ISA.

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3. OTHER ITEMS ON LIST OF U.S. ACTIONS CHARACTERIZED BY
DINITZ AS "MORE THAN CHANCE ACCUMULATION" WERE:

-- SECRETARY'S LETTER TO CONGRESS ON IDF USE OF U.S. ARMS
IN LEBANON ("WHOSE ARMS COULD WE HAVE USED?")

-- PRESS STORIES ABOUT CITING U.S. OFFICIALS TO EFFECT THAT

ISRAEL "RAINED" CBU'S ON CIVILIANS AND REFUGEE CAMPS.

-- U.S. FAILURE TO REFUTE CLAIMS THAT ISRAEL IS VIOLATING
425 BY NOT WITHDRAWING FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON.

-- ALLEGATION THAT ATHERTON IN ATLANTA CHARACTERIZED
REPORTER'S STATEMENT THAT "U.S.-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS NOW
WARMER THAN U.S.-ISRAEL" AS "FAIR ASSESSMENT." (FYI:
ATHERTON DID NOT RPT NOT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT).

4. DURING PRESENT "LULL" IN PEACE PROCESS, SAID DINITZ,
IT IS MISTAKE TO "SMEAR" ISRAEL IN THIS WAY BECAUSE (A)
IT PORTRAYS ISRAEL AS UNTRUSTWORTHY, INDEED INHUMANE,
INTERNATIONAL CITIZEN. THIS COULD MAKE PEACE PROCESS MORE
DIFFICULT, AND (B) IT CAN AFFECT ISRAELI PUBLIC IN WAYS
CONTRARY TO U.S. INTENT. WHILE HE DOES NOT BELIEVE U.S.
WANTS TO WEAKEN SUPPORT FOR BEGIN, DINITZ POINTED OUT
THAT MOST RECENT ISRAELI POLLS SHOW VERY STRONG PUBLIC
SUPPORT FOR GOI'S POLICIES ON BOTH LEBANON AND PEACE
PROCESS. DINITZ IMPLICATION WAS THAT HARDER U.S. PUSHES
ISRAEL, STRONGER BEGIN WILL BECOME.

5. ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT U.S. HAS NO
INTENTION OF "SMEARING" ISRAEL. WHAT WE FACE HERE, DINITZ
WAS TOLD, IS IN FACT A CHANCE ACCUMULATION OF EVENTS THAT
IS BEING TREATED BY THE PRESS--U.S. AND ISRAELI--IN WAYS
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THAT MAKE IT APPEAR THAT A WEDGE IS BEING DRIVEN BETWEEN
US.
CHRISTOPHER

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